



THE POUCH MANSION.



THE BROOKLYN SAVINGS BANK, CLINTON AND PIERREPONT STS.

## SOME SIGHTS OF BROOKLYN

## THE POUCH MANSION AND ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO A SOCIAL CENTRE.

THE CITY SEEN FROM THE WALL-ST. FERRY—THE NEW BROOKLYN SAVINGS BANK BUILDING—THREE FINE ARMORIES.

Among the many interesting and typical buildings of Brooklyn, few are better known than the Pouch Mansion, or Gallery, as it is also called. Yet probably the fact has escaped the minds of most Brooklyn people that this headquarters for big social affairs—balls, receptions, intellectual feasts—was built for a home.

When Mr. Graves, the head of a firm of wallpaper manufacturers, poured \$250,000 into this mammoth pile, people smiled pityingly and fastened the nickname of "Graves's Folly" upon the structure. And this it proved to be, for Mr. and Mrs. Graves died before it was finished, and A. J. Pouch, of the Standard Oil Company, got it for \$67,000.

It was the dream of the Graveses to give here a series of entertainments that would overshadow anything else in Brooklyn's social world. The house approaches in size to the great London palace of Barnato. Clinton-ave. is noted for its commodious mansions of wealthy men, but all the rest are dwarfed beside the giant "Graves's Folly."

The building is of brownstone and thoroughly modern, with enough ground around it to give a good view from all sides. Inside there are fifty rooms, many of them decorated at great expense; in fact, the interior decorations are said to have cost \$80,000.

The mansion has become so popular for a certain kind of social affairs that scarcely a night passes that it is not brilliantly lighted for one or more entertainments.

Brooklyn is noted for its ugly approaches. A man who got no further than the Brooklyn terminal of the Bridge would think the beautiful City of Churches and homes was a dreary, sordid sort of place. The one exception to these unsightly mural gateways is Wall-st. ferry. The stranger who steps from a Wall-st. ferry-boat gets a pretty fair impression of the city as it really is. In the first place, he finds himself in a double ferry-house, as airy, cleanly and well appointed as any in the two cities. While the dark drab paint has the dinginess that seems universal with ferry-houses, yet there is a loftiness and plenitude of sunlight about the reception-room of this house that is in striking contrast to the dark mustiness common to most of the species.

As one steps out he sees on either side stores of the Warehouse Trust. But as the eye follows Montague-st. up the sharp incline to Brooklyn Heights it rests at the top upon a row of grassy terraces suggestive of the Back Bay homes in Boston. The great retaining walls are overgrown with ivy, and surmounting all are the varied architectural beauties of the mansions of the wealthy old families of exclusive Columbia Heights.

One is carried up the hill and under the stone bridge by the Brooklyn Heights cable road, which, though but half a mile long, has given its name to half the trolley lines of Brooklyn to aid the devices of railroad financiering. Montague-st. is becoming less of a residence street and more and more the Wall Street of Brooklyn as the years go by. This metamorphosis is due, of course, to the direct connection by water with the real Wall Street. The ferry belongs to the Union Ferry Heights.

The new home of the Brooklyn Savings Bank, at the northeast corner of Clinton and Pierrepont sts., is said to be one of the most beautiful bank buildings in the district of the Greater New-York. It occupies about 125x120 feet that was the site of the old First Baptist Church. The building is of white marble and planned on massive and classical lines. The Pierrepont-st. entrance has somewhat the appearance of a triumphal arch, and rests on two Doric columns. Smaller columns at the foot of the steps hold aloft kneeling Atlases, who bear on their backs light globes. The roof is of red tiling, with retreating gables at either end. A pleasing contrast is made with the white marble by a trimming of black iron around the edge of the roof.

On the Clinton-st. side there is a huge art window that would be a credit to a cathedral. It is surrounded by Doric columns, and its projecting top is suggestive of the roof of a Grecian temple. The marble and gilt decorations of the interior are elaborate, and so expensive that the officers of other banks were inclined to shake their heads dubiously over spending so much money on a building to be occupied exclusively as a bank. But the Brooklyn Savings Bank is recognized as one of the strongest organizations of Brooklyn. Its deposits last year were \$8,000,000 larger than those of any other Brooklyn savings bank.

Military visitors to Brooklyn are always astonished at the massive grandeur of the three armories which are the homes of the 23d, 13th and 14th regiments. Brooklyn has five other military armories, but these three are the product of a lavish expenditure on the part of the State and county for the support and encouragement of the militia that has perhaps never been excelled.

Critics differ in giving the architectural supremacy to the armory of the 23d or the 13th. They are wholly different in design, and, while that of the 13th cost a little more, that of "Ours," as the 23d Regiment is affectionately called, has the larger drill hall—a drill hall as large as the 7th—and is in every respect a fitting home for the "swell" regiment of Long Island.

This armory covers more than half a big block at Atlantic and Bedford ayes, and Pacific-st. It is irregular in ground plan, but its average dimensions are 500x200 feet. The striking architectural feature of the exterior is a lofty castle tower at the southeast corner. The great arched entrance on Bedford-ave. has on either side smaller towers. The body of the building is made from red ashlar stone, although the tower and drill hall are built of brick.

The total cost of the armory was about \$550,000, but this includes more than \$60,000 raised by the companies for turning their separate rooms into elegant drawing-rooms.

In speaking of the interior decorations special mention must be made of the big reception-room of the commissioned officers. This has an unusually lofty ceiling, and the whole interior is trimmed with massive carved oak in the old English style. As the chairs and tables are also of heavy carved oak, the effect is that of a mediæval knightly banquet hall. The old armor and weapons that decorate the walls complete the effect. Certainly nothing in any other American armory approaches it, and visitors from abroad say they have never seen anything like it. Something of its generous proportions may be judged from the fact that the fireplace and mantel reach up twenty-four feet.

For about a third of a century the hulk of the



TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y., ARMORY.